

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. In the city of Uzhgorod (N48-38, E22-16) 90 percent of the adult women are employed, primarily in factories. In the veneer manufacturing plant, "Panernyy-Mebelnyy Kombinat", and in the "Lesopilka" (lumber mill) 70 percent of the workers are women. Only foremen, supervisors, etc., are men. Women may get better paid jobs if they are members of the Komsomol or are wives of prominent Communists. There are frequent irregularities in the payment of wages, because of poor organization. The average earnings of a woman worker is just enough to pay for food and accommodations, and at best for one dress and pair of poor quality footwear a year. One can see them walking in the snow with their toes showing. After seven years of Soviet administration one can still see people wearing clothes bought during the prosperous Czechoslovak era.
2. Youngsters on leaving school may choose their trade, but cannot change it later. After six months' preliminary training they go to factories and remain apprentices (though working practically like grown-up workmen) at average wages of 100 rubles per month, plus full board in government hostels. Every youth has to be in the Pioneers or in the Komsomol, whether they or their parents like it or not. Thus, they are educated in Communism and are taught to be mere numbers in a collective.
3. Food has become synonymous with "standing in line". Even so, only the basic foods can be bought. It is an appalling situation for a country almost wholly agricultural, where food used to be plentiful and extremely cheap under the pre-war Czechoslovak administration. The canned food production for the Soviet Army, such as is produced in the Western Ukraine, is concentrated in Lvov. The most hateful system of exploitation of the workers prevails in these factories. Very high norms are fixed and non-fulfillment results in severe punishment of individuals or entire sections whose wages are then reduced for the benefit of the few shockworkers and Party members who work under privileged conditions. This phenomenon - to be observed in all Cominform countries - is a novel type of class warfare within a class. Coffee is unobtainable for the average worker. People drink tea only, Georgian and Chinese, sold under various names, all of equally poor quality.

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there is only canned fish and crab-meat for the civilian and non-privileged population. There is, however, plenty of vodka.

Economic Conditions

4. People working on collective farms are so hungry that they steal potatoes by hiding them in their sleeves and shirts. People receive only black bread. Many cattle are dying from infections and the agricultural output is decreasing because of poor labor organization. In the last agricultural year, profits decreased by 30 percent. There is a scarcity of fertilizers and animal manure, and seeds are of poor quality. Soviet agronomists try to compensate for this by so-called "deep ploughing". This year was abnormally dry and the corn and potato crops were catastrophic. Only the wheat crop was good. One kg of potatoes now officially costs three rubles, while last year it was only 80 kopecks.
5. The standard of living in the Carpatho-Ukraine is rapidly growing worse. Since summer 1951 people stood in line for everything. Those who want to get food in the morning have to line up in queues at 0100 hours. Shops open at 0700 hours. People call these lines "ochered" (the Russian word for bread-lines). Vegetables have disappeared from the shops and markets; rationed margarine could be bought once or twice a month, but since last summer it has almost disappeared. The only relatively cheap product is liquor. Moscow vodka costs 15 rubles per liter and various other kinds of brandy cost 45 to 56 rubles. A package of 20 cigarettes costs 1.45 to 5 rubles. They are often damp and moldy. A pair of leather shoes made at the Svit Plant in Gottwaldov (Zlin), Czechoslovakia, without coupons, costs 400 to 420 rubles. Soviet-manufactured shoes are cheaper (only 350 to 400 rubles) and the cheapest are those manufactured in Kiev and Uzhgorod. In summer 1951 cheap shoes appeared on the market. They last about three weeks and cost about 100 rubles. Woolen materials cost 360 to 450 rubles per meter. These are sold once a month. All textiles are imported from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland. One has to pay an additional 220 rubles for having them made into a suit. Motor vehicles are now rare in Uzhgorod. Only State enterprises and police possess trucks and there are only two (sic) passenger cars left in the entire city. Rent for a town apartment, belonging to communal enterprises, consisting usually of only one room, runs from 30 to 40 rubles. The rent for a so-called civilian apartment is 150 to 200 rubles.
6. Plain, German steel watches, available only on the black market, cost 500 rubles. German gold watches cost 1,200 rubles. Cameras are rarely seen and those imported from East Germany, marked "FET" (sic), cost 1,600 rubles. Soviet-made primitive box-cameras cost 60 rubles (in Germany 10 DM) with extremely poor quality Soviet film. Kitchen utensils, in limited variety and poor quality, are sold at the Univermag. A concern called Dynamo sells bicycles and sporting goods. The cheapest bicycle, without accessories, costs 750 rubles and the so-called racing bicycle costs from 1,200 to 1,300 rubles. A football costs 60 to 70 rubles. A single-barrel small-bore gun costs 280 rubles and a double-barrel shotgun costs 800 rubles.

Entertainment

7. The former cafes are tea shops now, in which some meatless dishes can be obtained, for two to three rubles, and fish. There are only two movie theaters in Uzhgorod, the "Omnia" and "Moskva". From time to time an old Hollywood film can still be seen, such as Tarzan or Rose Marie, and then the house is packed. Otherwise only Soviet films are shown before half-empty houses. Films have to be passed by the local Communist Party censoring committee. Workers are entitled to 14 days' leave a year, which they need not take and may instead receive monetary compensation. Recreation centers in the Carpathian mountains are reserved for some five percent of the privileged shockworkers. So far, no Carpatho-Ukrainian worker has gone to any of the famous Soviet recreation centers in the Crimea or Caucasus.

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Hospitals

8. The Uzhgorod hospital is overcrowded; people lie on mattresses spread on the floor and, if more seriously ill patients are brought to the hospital, those who suffer from minor diseases are simply thrown out. This hospital has only three experienced doctors, while a number of Russian physicians have no experience whatsoever and literally learn on the patients. More serious operations are done by local doctors, less serious ones by the Russians, who are considered to be stupid and primitive. Mortality rates even among the less seriously ill are high.

Town Broadcasting

9. Town broadcasting is transmitted through public loudspeakers, bellowing from dawn to dusk. Anti-American slogans are repeated in Russian, Ruthenian, and Hungarian. People prefer to listen to the Voice of America, BBC, and broadcasts from Paris.

Schools

10. The official language in elementary schools in some villages with a Hungarian majority is Hungarian. But in secondary schools children are taught in Russian or Ruthenian.

Forced Labor Camps

11. There are no such camps in the Carpatho-Ukraine and all suspicious persons are deported to concentration camps in Siberia. Punishments are very strict and the most severe ones are for violation of guard duties in the frontier zone. Two soldiers were sentenced to 25 years of forced labor in Siberia for not reporting footprints on the ploughed field in the frontier zone.

Arrests

12. Civilians are arrested secretly, primarily during the night, and are taken into custody in small groups. Their relatives hear from them only after three to four months, because such people are usually transported to Siberia. People are asked to "voluntarily" accept civilian jobs, primarily in the Donbass, under the promise of higher wages. Others are taken there by force. Some try to escape from the Donbass to the Ukraine, where they are usually caught by the MVD. The chief agent for the deportation of suspicious persons from the Carpatho-Ukraine is Bart (fn).

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The main station of the MVD is in Uzhgorod, in the building of the National Council (sic).

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Communist Controls

13. The Uzhgorod Communist Party headquarters and Secretariat has premises on the 9th floor of the 100-meter-high building with escalators built by the pre-war Czechoslovak administration for the Trans-Carpathian legislative assembly. The building is under the guard of the Sluzba Bezpeka (Security Service) and of members of the Frontier Guard. There is free access to all floors except the 9th floor, for which passes are needed. These are yellow-brown, have two pages, and a photograph of the holder. Head of the area Communist Party Committee is Stefan Turianica, a chimney-sweep by trade, of Hungarian nationality, who was prominent at the time of the Hungarian occupation during World War II. Regular meetings of the area Committee take place on Wednesdays and Fridays. The Committee is a gang of unscrupulous adventurers, imposed by dictatorial methods upon the population, whose fate they decide according to orders from Moscow.

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14. The leading Communists in Uzhgorod are: Janos Hollod, Janos Kovacs, and Elizabeth Jefosak (Mrs.?), who is a secretary of the Communist Party and at the same time also a people's judge in Palagy. (Note: all these names are Hungarian.)

15. In the area of the Party headquarters building, there is a four-story house occupied by the Soviet Security Service. Outsiders are admitted by the officer on duty on producing a summons. These summonses are not posted but are delivered by messengers of the Security Service headquarters and read briefly: "Report on (date) at (time) at Section so-and-so"; beneath this there is a stamp with the Soviet star and one signature. The Security Service controls all district and local committees and has a wide-spread network of informers. District and local committees have their own Bezpeka agents (sometimes the chairman), who in turn employ a number of informers.

16. All letters sent to or received from foreign countries are censored by the Bezpeka; and inland mail, at least most of it [redacted] is censored by agents or informers employed as clerks at the post offices.

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Unlike in Satellite countries, in the Uzhgorod area one need not post a letter, addressed abroad, personally and produce his identity card because the local informers know all senders and their usual addresses abroad. Letters, the origin or content of which is not quite clear, are either held up for months or not dispatched at all.

17. Intelligence material concerning Carpatho-Ukrainians abroad, be they political refugees or normal emigrants, is also gathered and dealt with at the Uzhgorod Bezpeka Hq.

18. The civilian population has no idea what is going on behind the walls of any Soviet Army barracks. People avoid even looking at them, because showing the slightest interest means risking being sent to a forced labor camp in Siberia.

19. Political indoctrination for workers takes place a couple of hours weekly during working time, and after working hours in the evenings between 2000 and 2400 hours. As of the date of this report, the main topic was that American imperialism is leading the world into a new world war and that it is trying to spread the Korean conflict. The heroic resistance of the Korean people against the American aggressors was also covered.

20. Political schooling of the Soviet Army was increased to 16 hours per week. Only one person in 100 is a member of the Communist Party and these are usually factory managers and senior officials.

21. The Communist indoctrination lecturers are sparing no effort in causing a split between the industrial and city workmen on the one side and the peasants on the other. Despite this, relations between these equally exploited and suffering classes have remained good. Peasants are still secretly selling food to city dwellers and workers in factories, though only in a very limited measure, for the control is as tight as it can be. Despite all the anti-Western and anti-American propaganda and indoctrination, people in cities and villages are forever dreaming of the return of the good old times of pre-war Czechoslovakia. Indeed, even the brief war-time Hungarian regime today seems less oppressive in comparison with the Soviets. When Communist speakers discuss the threat of American aggression, intimate friends in the audience whisper to one another: "Please God, let them start, the sooner the better". And no wonder; with the Soviets came the bread-line, completely unknown even in this comparatively poor mountain-province; compulsion and police terror in every aspect of life; the constant threat of deportation and labor camps; shortages of all commodities; exploitation and being cheated by a cold and ruthless administration; the inability to voice dissatisfaction; no justice; and no protection - not even protection against disease and death. There is an appalling lack of hygiene and the death rate in maternity

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hospitals has risen to unheard-of proportions. Another reason for the general increase in mortality is the lack of qualified doctors. The welfare of this country, which, under the pre-war Czechoslovakian administration, was gradually approaching Western standards, which even the last war could not destroy, has been reduced to a state of abject poverty and slavery in a mere seven years of Soviet rule. No wonder that relations between the administration and the population, between management and the workers, are very bad. The much heralded target of finishing the present Five-Year Plan in three years will never be accomplished

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22. A Czechoslovak delegation of 80 people travelling to Moscow in March 1952 stopped at Uzhgorod and a banquet was held in their honor at the Hotel Koruna. The space around the hotel was surrounded by the MVD; nevertheless, 400 silent spectators gathered round the hotel.

23. A Hungarian delegation travelling through Uzhgorod in May 1952 made an inspection of the only new item constructed in the six years since the Province of Bukovina was taken from Czechoslovakia: a children's train in an Uzhgorod park.

The Soviet Army

24. the hatred of the soldiers towards the Russian commanders. Since 1949 soldiers in service were not allowed to associate with civilians.

25. New Soviet Army barracks, reportedly for artillery units, are under construction in Uzhgorod on Dravce (sic) street. They will consist of a five-story, broad U-shaped building, the central block being 80 m and the two side blocks 40 m each.

Airfields

26. Nine km from the city Uzhgorod, in the vicinity of Male Ratovice, a large airfield for jet aircraft is under construction. The prohibited area around this site covers 2.5 x 1.5 km. Construction of the runways, made of iron plates, started in summer 1951. Hangars and barracks are also under construction. A radar station, situated between Uzhgorod and its suburb of Minajska (sic), consists of one large radar-tower, 20 m high, and of two smaller ones, each nine m high. Another new airfield is located not far from the city of Mukacevo (N48-26, E22-43) behind a castle. The prohibited area around this airfield is 4 x 4 km. Three to four jets have been observed repeatedly starting from this airfield. The largest formation was nine to ten aircraft.

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27. Railroad

The railroad line from Uzhgorod to Velke Kapusany, Czechoslovakia, which was dismantled in 1948, is being reconstructed in a great hurry as a broad-gauge line.

Partisan Activities

28. The last (sic) partisan activity occurred in 1950 in a forest near Uzhgorod when two Ruthenian partisans were wounded and transferred to an Uzhgorod hospital; three other men were shot on the spot and seven succeeded in escaping.

29. In summer 1952 a violent skirmish between MVD men and partisans occurred in the vicinity of Chernovtsay (N48-18, E25-55), during which 30 MVD men were shot.

30. In summer 1951 partisan activity cut traffic in the Uzhgorod Pass for three consecutive days.

31. A large group of Polish partisans are still operating near Chernovtsay in Bukovina. During the night they sometimes stop all the railway traffic. Other groups are said to be operating around Lvov (N49-50, E24-00).

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32. In June 1952 two stores of ammunition were discovered by the Soviet Army in the hamlet of Or. They contained 60 rifles with ammunition, two submachine guns, piles of hand-grenades, pistols, and disassembled motorcycles. This attack on Or was organized by the MVD, which surrounded the place and for three days allowed nobody to enter or leave. All men over 18 years were arrested and a rumor spread among the inhabitants that the hamlet would be evacuated. The arms were found in a cellar covered by a stack of straw.

Frontier Zone

33. A strip, about seven to eight km wide, along the Czechoslovak-Soviet border, inside Soviet territory, is the so-called "forbidden zone". Entrance to this zone is allowed only on special entry-passes, valid for specific sectors. Those marked with number "1", entitle a person to enter the frontier zone, while passes marked with number "2" do not entitle one to enter the "forbidden zone". At night the frontier guards often surround a group of villages and, on the following day, search all the houses and inhabitants, looking for American spies and "diversionists". Frontier guards have dogs and horses. The Czechoslovak-Soviet frontier is covered by a flare-field, five m wide, interwoven with alarm wires, twenty to thirty cm above the ground. Beyond this there is a ploughed field where every footprint can be seen, and then comes another flare-field surrounded by a barbed-wire barrier, two m high and four m wide.

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